

**COUNCIL MINUTES
BOONE COUNTY, INDIANA
March 8, 2016**

Council Member: You are hereby notified that there will be a regular meeting of the Boone County Council at the Boone County Office Building, 116 W. Washington St., in the Connie Lamar Meeting Room, Room 105, in the City of Lebanon, on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Council President Steve Jacob called the meeting to order. Council members in attendance were Tom Santelli, Debby Shubert, Marcia Wilhoite, Kevin Van Horn and David Rodgers. Councilor John Hume was absent.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES

Councilor Santelli made a motion to approve the council minutes from the February 9, 2016 meeting as written. Councilor Rodgers seconded. Motion carried, 6-0.

IN THE MATTER OF RE-APPROPRIATIONS

NONE

IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Council members reviewed the requests made by the following departments:

CUM CAP DEVELOPMENT

Mike Miller, County Facilities, presented an additional request for invoices from the May 2015 lightning strike. Due to the age of the pre-existing equipment that was damaged, Travelers Insurance only paid \$2,200.00. The request is the difference to cover the invoice.

1138.0000.440.443.0.9120	Courthouse/Annex	\$4,690.00
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Councilor Rodgers made a motion to approve the request as submitted. Councilor Santelli seconded. Motion carried, 6-0.

REASSESSMENT

Lisa Garoffolo, County Assessor, presented an additional request for an appraising contract.

1188.0000.430.431.0.0002	Consulting	\$10,000.00
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Councilor Wilhoite made a motion to approve the request as submitted. Councilor Shubert seconded. Motion carried, 6-0.

PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT APPEALS

Assessor Garoffolo presented an additional request for upcoming appraisals and reviews.

1228.0000.430.431.0.0004	Professional Services	\$15,000.00
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Councilor Wilhoite made a motion to approve the request as submitted. Councilor Shubert seconded. Motion carried, 6-0.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS

Sharon Walker, President of Boone County Purdue Extensions Board, addressed the Council and introduced multiple individuals who were discussing Purdue Extensions Programs.

Lisa Cangany, Extensions Agent for Health and Human Sciences, introduced Jenny Weed, Transformation Ministry Coordinator for Love, Inc. Ms. Weed addressed the Council with details on Transformation Ministry, which starts in the fall of 2016. These services will be available to all but will be directed more towards individuals within poverty level.

Curt Emanuel, Director of Boone County Extension, introduced Allen Mohler, Supervisor of the Soil & Water Conservation District Board and Director of Breeders and Feeders. Mr. Mohler addressed the Council to discuss the goals and benefits of the Cover Crop Project.

Pandora Woodward, 4-H Youth Educator, introduced Emma Mendes, a Purdue University student and tenured 4-H member. Ms. Mendes gave a presentation about her positive experiences with 4-H.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Kent Irwin, Waggoner, Irwin and Schelle & Associates, provided a handout to the Council and discussed the process of the wage study for Boone County. Mr. Irwin laid out the process for the study and noted that they will start by meeting with elected officials and department heads. During the discussion, three wage study options were presented, with an estimated timeline for completion of 6-7 months.

Councilors are concerned about receiving information prior to September 1st to be utilized at the 2017 budget hearings, as well as obtaining quality data in a shorter period of time.

Due to the time restraint, Mr. Irwin assured the Council that data could be provided by the end of August 2016 for the September budget hearings.

Ken Hedge, County Surveyor, Debbie Ottinger, County Treasurer, Cindy Murphy, Director of Nursing & Vital Records, Sheriff Michael Nielsen and Jessica Fouts, County Clerk, all addressed the Council regarding the wage study, noting that if base levels are not decided upon, the county will start to lose employees. They also discussed other funding options, besides County General, such as the Food & Beverage fund.

Council President Steve Jacob inquired about how wages and raises should be structured.

Mr. Irwin explained how percentages, base pay, and performance pay are viewed and initiated in government versus the private sector. He also stated that the report compares county positions with those of other governmental offices, non-for-profit agencies, and the private sector.

Steve Freeland, Zionsville resident, and Aaron Smith, Lebanon resident, both made individual statements on the wage study topic.

The Council requested to have the wage study include additional compensation; such as health care, retirement, and insurance packages. Funding options were discussed. The Council budgeted \$24,000.00 in the consulting line at the 2016 budget hearings, with additional expenses possibly coming from the Rainy Day or Riverboat funds.

The Council unanimously agreed to move forward with the wages study. Initial invoices will be expensed from the Council's County General Fund and billed on a monthly basis.

Councilor Rodgers made a motion to move forward with option 1 of the wage study, in the amount of \$48,460.00. Councilor Santelli seconded. Motion carried 5-1, with Wilhoite voting no.

Councilor Rodgers stated that a contract will need to be presented for the Commissioners' approval as well as an additional request to cover pre-existing and future expenses.

Councilor Van Horn noted the importance of transparency with employees on job performance as well as benefit packages.

2016 BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Thorntown Public Library Board

No motion was taken on the Thorntown Public Library Board. Councilor Rodgers will contact the library directly to see if anyone is interested in the appointment.

Redevelopment Commission

Councilor Wilhoite made a motion to appoint Ben Lawson to the Redevelopment Commission Board. Councilor Van Horn seconded. Motion carried, 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sheriff Nielsen distributed the Sheriff's Office Report for March 8, 2016.

Councilor Rodgers commended the Sheriff's Department, the Communications Center and all other agencies, who assisted with the 68 car pileup on Interstate 65, for their efficiency and professionalism.

Treasurer Ottinger advised that information will be attached to the 2016 property tax statements/notices, informing taxpayers that next year's statements could possibly be received via e-mail, if requested.

Jessica Fouts updated the Council on the Elections mobile app by stating that her office is currently in the decision making process for graphics.

Councilor Shubert made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Santelli seconded. Motion carried, 6-0.

The next regular scheduled meeting for the Council is Tuesday, April 12, 2016, at 8:30 a.m., in the Connie Lamar Meeting Room.

Minutes Prepared by Chelsea Young, Deputy Auditor.

Steve Jacob
Boone County Council President

Date

Deanna Willhoite
Boone County Auditor

Date